

8. Struck by Concrete Wall

A **24-year-old** employee was killed when a concrete wall of a building under construction fell on him. The victim was scraping and caulking the control joints (put in the wall to allow flexibility and prevent the wall from cracking) on the outside of the east wall of the building. He was standing on an extension ladder to reach the higher parts of the control joints. He was at a height of about nine feet from the ground. Suddenly, a strong gust of wind came through and blew the east wall over towards the East side of the construction site. The victim on the ladder was crushed between the wall/ladder and the ground. He was apparently killed instantly. Approximately two weeks before the fatality, the east wall had been braced with three wooden braces on the inside and three on the outside of the wall. During the fatality investigation, it appeared that the three inside braces were in place when the wall fell, but two of the three outside braces were not in place.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

Citation 1

Item 1 1926.21(b)(2)	The employer did not instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.
Item 1926.706(a)(1)	The limited access zone was not established prior to the start of construction of the wall.
Item 3 1926.706(b)	All masonry walls over eight feet in height were not adequately braced to prevent overturning and to prevent collapse, and/or bracing did not remain in place until permanent supporting elements of the structure were in place.



East wall after falling; yellow arrow indicates where victim was found